



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 26, 2008

## **We Did It! Winnipeg Has The Longest Skating Trail in the World Join Pack of Dweebs in Snowsuits on the Trail**

**The Forks, Winnipeg** – The full 8.54 kilometres of the Assiniboine Credit Union River Trail (ACURT) is set to open on Monday. To celebrate, 'dweebs' from The Forks Renewal Corporation and Festival du Voyageur, dressed in their full dweeb attire, are skating what will become Guinness World Record's longest naturally frozen skating trail in the world on Monday.

ACURT has been operating at varying distances for about twenty years, with a maximum length of about 4.5 kilometres. Last year, Ottawa's Rideau Canal did not freeze and for a brief time our city's trail was the longest. The Forks got into a friendly dissing match with Ottawa to the point where an Ottawa Citizen columnist called Paul Jordan, Chief Operating Officer of The Forks a 'dweeb in a snow suit' from Winterpeg. That spurred The Forks to try this year to make ours the longest, officially.

"They can call us dweebs all they want, but we now have the longer trail," says Jordan. "We have applied for the Guinness World Record and with this 8.54 kilometres, the Guinness people have responded that they are interested in our record. We are nearly assured of getting one."

Assiniboine Credit Union, who along with Festival du Voyageur, program the Assiniboine Credit Union River Trail are thrilled with having the longest trail in the world.

"We are really excited to be part of this great project, giving Winterpeggers something new to brag about," says Josée Vaillancourt, Executive Director of Festival du Voyageur.

"This little competition with Ottawa makes us even more proud to be associated with the River Trail," said Michel Audette, CEO of Assiniboine Credit Union. "The River Trail gets better and longer every year and I'm confident the Guinness people will award the world record to us!"

Assiniboine Credit Union River Trail runs on both the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. There are several legs to the Trail and access points: on the Assiniboine River, Hugo dock, Osborne dock, Legislative Building dock, Maryland Bridge North Bank, at the end of Arlington Street, Aubrey Street, Dominion Street and Omand's Creek Park, on the Red River, Norwood dock, Taché dock, Fort Gibraltar and Exchange Dock.

In order to receive the Guinness World Record for longest naturally frozen skating trail, The Forks must provide officials with independent surveys verifying length, width and ice thickness. Length must be more than 7.8 kilometres with a width of 2 metres and a thickness of 15 centimetres. Media reports, photography and two independent witnesses are also part of the package being submitted to Guinness. Official recognition takes 4-6 weeks from the date of submission.

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**Join the dweebs for the official opening of  
The Worlds Longest Skating Trail.  
Bring your skates, your snowsuit and your cameras on  
Monday, January 28, 2008 at 10:30am,  
on the Rivertrail at Omand's Creek.  
(access to river at the corner of Raglan Road and Wolseley Avenue)**

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**For more information, contact**

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